

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – May 2019

We are well into our winter season and are busy on club days.

Bereavement

We are deeply saddened to hear that Alison Ansley passed away while overseas. Our thoughts go to Ross and family.

AGM

Our AGM will be at the club on Saturday 18 May starting at 10am. The agenda, including reports, is being sent out with this newsletter. Printed copies will be available at the meeting.

There will be a brief meeting of the new committee immediately after the AGM.

Nominations for officers and committee close Saturday 11 May. Nomination forms are at the club where all nominations received so far are on the white board.

Club lunch

There will be a club lunch after the AGM at Double Tree by Hilton/Chateau on the Park at 189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton. It should start around noon. Partners are welcome. If you want to attend please put your name on the list on the notice board by Saturday 11 May.

Leaves

We are fortunate to have a club in great surroundings. One downside is all the leaves that fall this time of the year. Several members spent part of last Wednesday to clear the leaves from around the fence and on lawns 3 and 4.

Leaves will be falling for a few weeks yet, so if you have a few spare minutes please help by clearing some leaves. Rakes, tarpaulins and wool sacks are in the equipment shed. Leaves can be put in the concrete bin beyond the gate by lawns 6. Feel free to take the home for your garden.

The bin is for compostable material only. Flax, punga leaves etc. must not be put in the bin.

Recent results

The NZ team of 4 females and 4 males won the Trans-Tasman series (Golf Croquet) last month. Duncan Dixon and Edmund Fordyce were part of this team. Congratulations to you both. Results are at <https://croquetscores.com/2019/gc/trans-tasman-series>.

Congratulations to Jenny Clarke who won the Cheltenham Easter Advanced AC Competition on 21-22nd April. Results at <https://croquetscores.com/2019/ac/cheltenham-easter-advanced>

The Maud Trainor competition is now underway after being postponed from February. With only four lawns available at the start we had to turn people away. Those that played enjoyed excellent weather on Friday the 3rd of May and hope this continues during the remaining four Fridays of May.

Looking after our lawns

This winter we have had a lot of rain and the lawns are very soft and easily damaged. Because of this there should be no play before 11am. Normal club day hours are 11am to 3pm. Play after 3pm is OK as long as the conditions allow.

It is very easy to damage the lawns with your mallet so please be careful. Don't drag your mallet behind you and definitely don't casually drop your mallet. A drop of only a few inches on the corner of the mallet is enough to leave a noticeable depression. A slight mis-hit can create a divot. If you do any damage to the lawn, stop play and repair the damage.

If are not confident that you can play a jump shot without damaging the lawn, then don't try while the lawns are soft. Practice your jumps shots off the lawns. Remember that, for both GC and AC, it is a fault if you cause significant damage with your mallet during a jump shot.

Parking

The grass area behind the petanque terrain is sometime used for parking if the normal car park is full. This mainly applies to bigger events such as interclub or tournaments.

For the rest of winter, there is to be no parking on this area as the grassed area is too soft. However, parking is allowed on the gravel area as long it will not interfere with other users.

Car passes

During the working week, there is a three-hour time limit on parking in the public car park next to tennis. The council provides us with car passes that allow us to park more than the three hours. This is handy for events such as interclub. As our car parking is very limited please let our guests park near the club and park members' cars in the public park.

There is a larger public park off the Armagh Street entrance to Hagley Park. It is 400m from the club.

Passes expire 30 June and during June the council will be asking us to update the list for car passes.

If you have given me your car registration, I can order a pass for you. If you want a pass, please let me know your registration number.

Corporate events

Corporate events are now over for the season. These have earned us about \$8000 this season, so really help to keep our subs down.

A big thanks to everyone who helped out.

Mallets

A member's mallet has gone missing again. It is a Terminator and has a name engraved on the side.

Please check and return immediately.

AC coaching for GC players

We are planning to run AC coaching for current GC players. This is a chance to learn more skills and gives more options when it comes to playing and possibly entering competitions.

Details are to be finalised but are likely to be:

- open to all Canterbury players
- held on four Saturday mornings starting 8th June 2019
- running from 10.45am till 12.30pm

Contact John Yarrall if you are interested

jyarrall@xtra.co.nz, 027 407 9036

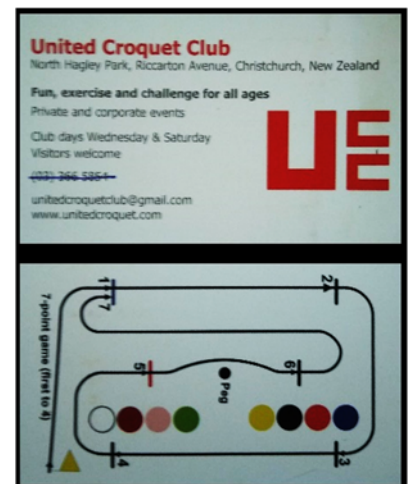
Promoting croquet

The committee is always looking out for ways to promote croquet. We have signs on the fence, our website, listings on directories such as [CINCH](#) etc.

All club members are the best ambassadors for the game. When you are talking to friends and family tell them about the game and invite them along.

We have printed business cards with contact details and the 7-point game that we use for corporate events. Feel free to take several and hand them out.

We also have a sign that is kept in the equipment shed. It should be put out at the gate on club days and returned when packing up.



United Croquet Club

Newsletter – August 2019

Lawns

All our lawns will remain closed for three weeks. This includes the practice area and other areas between lawns as we want to limit the spread of diseases. We will send a notice when they are about to be opened.

With all the rain and the heavy use over most of winter they are seriously in need of rest to recover before the summer season starts.

In addition, we have other issues with the lawns. These include fusarium, red thread, worm casts, moss and Purina caterpillar. Some treatment will be done soon and others when the spring growth starts.

Even if the lawns have not been closed, please do not play if conditions are not suitable, or your playing may cause damage to the lawn.

On Sunday a small group will be playing including preparation for the National Secondary Schools tournament.

Working Bee

We will be having a working bee on Saturday 17 August to get ready for the new season. Tasks include tidying the lawns and surrounds, including leaves and grass around the fence, weeding the gardens, sorting and cleaning the sheds and cleaning the club house.

Please come in working clothes and bring your garden tools.

In the event of bad weather, the alternate date is Saturday 24 August.

Morning tea will be provided and there will be BBQ sausages and bread around noon.

Opening Day

The summer season opening day will be Saturday 31 August. A BBQ will be provided. Please bring a salad or desert. There will be a Captain's talk before lunch.

Hopefully the lawns will be open, and we will be able to play in the afternoon.

Secondary Schools Tournament

The National Secondary Schools tournament will be played at United on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September. There will be 24 teams from secondary schools throughout New Zealand, including four from Christchurch schools.

United Spring GC tournament

The United Spring GC tournament will be held on Sunday 15th September starting at 8:30am.

There is an open singles event and a handicap singles event, so anyone can enter.

If you are interested, contact the manager, Tony O'Donnell.

United Spring AC tournament

The United Spring AC tournament will be held on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September starting at 8:30am.

There is an open singles event and a handicap singles event, so anyone can enter.

If you are interested, contact the manager, Chris Clarke.

Heat Pump

We now have a heat pump installed, so it will be easier to heat the club rooms and now possible to cool it in summer.

Funding

We have been successful in getting funding for several projects, thanks to Claire and Tony:

The Heat pump was largely funded by NZ Community Trust.

Pub Charities funded the new fridge and oven.

Southern Trust has provided funds for six sets of balls, one set of hoops and a sabot (for safely driving in hoops). These are for the Women's World Champs that will be at United in November/December 2020.

NZCT is funding a soil bin that will be where the soil is currently stored next to Ernies' shed. This will keep this area much tidier and help to keep the soil dry.

We currently have an application with the Mainland Foundation for lawn preparation for the World Women's champs.

Recent results

It is great to report on the successes of Jenny and Chris during their stay in the UK. Jenny playing in the singles events and playing with Chris in the double's events.

AC events:

- Cheltenham Easter open: won
- Cheltenham May Weekend: 2nd
- Cheltenham grade champs: 2nd
- British Mixed Doubles (with Chris): 2nd
- British Women's Championship: won
- British Open singles: qualified for KO, lost first round
- British Open doubles (with Chris): quarter finals

Golf Croquet:

- British Open: quarter finals
- British Open Doubles (with Chris): won
- Congratulations, that is a wonderful record.

U21 Golf Croquet World Champs

The WCF Under 21 Golf Croquet World Championship 2019 was held at the Nottingham Croquet Club in England from Saturday, 20 July to Wednesday, 24 July 2019.

Edmund Fordyce, representing New Zealand, won the Under-21 Golf Croquet World Championship, coming back from 2-0 down in a thrilling best of five final against the England player James Galphin. Yasser Sayed (Egypt) and Euan Burrridge (England) took the bronze medals. NZ and England players shared the consolation events. The Shield was won by Nathan Bullen, the Bowl by Chris Spittal and the Plate by Callum Johnson.

The tournament website <https://u21gcwc2019.org/> has details of the players

Detailed results are at <https://croquetscores.com/2019/gc/wcf-u21-golf-croquet-world-championship>

You can see video of several matches at <https://www.youtube.com/croquetengland>

World Golf Croquet Champs

The WCF Simon Carter Golf Croquet World Championship 2019 is being held at the Sussex County Croquet Club in West Sussex, England (and other venues) from Saturday, 27 July to Sunday, 4 August 2019.

United member, Duncan Dixon, won all his matches in his block. Past member, Josh Freeth, won all but one match. Other kiwis who made the knockout are Hamish McIntosh (Epsom/Remuera) and George Coulter (Whakatane). The knockout starts 1st August.

The tournament website is <https://gcworlds2019.org/>

Detailed results are at <https://croquetscores.com/2019/gc/wcf-simon-carter-golf-croquet-world-championship>

You can see video of several matches, including live streaming, at <https://www.youtube.com/croquetengland>

AC coaching for GC players

Twelve Canterbury players attended the AC coaching for GC players that was held at United and run by John Yarrall with help from Tony O'Donnell and Philippa Porter

It was scheduled to run on four Saturday mornings starting 8th June. One session was delayed a week because of weather. Small lawns with wide wire hoops were used so players could concentrate on tactics without being interrupted with sub-optimal shots.

Tournament Manager Training

On Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September, Chris Clarke will be training tournament managers at United. This is for managers from several South Island clubs, including some from United.

Club play will not be interrupted.

South Island Champs

The South Island Golf Croquet Champs will be held at United Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th October.

The open doubles will be held on Thursday and Friday, and the open singles on the weekend. Enter via the CNZ website.

Some preparation will be done on the Wednesday before.

Included with this newsletter are:

The latest Phone list

Draft minutes of the last committee meeting

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – September 2019

The season starts

The summer season has started, and we have lots of things happening in the next few weeks.

Pam will be attending the CCA Captains' meeting on Saturday 21 September and will then have the draws for the interclub competitions. The club calendar will then be updated with this information.

Pam will be sending out information later.

Lawns

The lawns were opened after the working bee on 24 August after being closed for three weeks.

The lawns can still easily be damaged as shown in the pictures below taken after the working bee. Please be careful, and if you do some damage, please stop and repair it. If necessary, use something like a car key to lift the turf. The damage on the left is from a scuff and the one on the right is probably from a dropped mallet.



The lawns have been sprayed with fungicide and with a moss treatment, so always wash your hands when stopping for lunch or afternoon tea. A further treatment for moss will be applied in the week beginning 8 September. Lawn 4 has a lot of moss, so it will be closed later this month.

All the hoops were moved to new holes last Sunday, so you won't be bothered by rabbit runs for a while. All the hoops have been marked, as they used to be before we had the Atkins hoops, to show where they should go. They are marked on the West wire and show the lawn number followed by hoop number, where 5/4 means lawn 5, hoop 4.

Please ensure you put them in the correct holes.

Working Bee

The working bee that was scheduled for Saturday 17 August was postponed because of bad weather to Saturday 24 August, which turned out to be a good day.

Most of the tasks were completed and a lot of rubbish was removed. The club is now looking a lot tidier. Many thanks to all the members who helped.

Opening Day

The summer season opening day on Saturday 31 August turned out to be a glorious day.

Secondary Schools Tournament

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Teams will be practicing on Friday.

United Spring GC tournament

The United Spring GC Open event will be held on Saturday 15th September starting at 8:30am and the handicap event will be held on Sunday 15th September starting at 8:30am.

Now that these events are being played on different days, because of the number of entries, it is now possible to enter both events.

If you are interested, contact the manager, Jenny Clarke.

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Twilight GC

Twilight GC is planned for Thursdays 21, 28 November, 5 December, 23, 30 January and 20, 27 February. This will be teams of 2 and the format will be based on the number of entries. Further details will be discussed at the club captains meeting on the 21 September.

If you are interested, let Pam know.

Calendar

There are a number of ways of seeing what events are on at United.

Lawn usage list

This lists every day for the rest of the season with the events for that day. A copy is on the notice board and a copy is on the club website at <https://unitedcroquet.com/members-information/> (or click the menu item "Members"). This is updated periodically.

Online club calendar

The club's online calendar is at <https://unitedcroquet.com/calendar/>. You can also scroll down to view the North Hagley Sports Trust's calendar. The next four calendar items are shown in right-hand panel of every web page.

Subscriptions

Invoices for the 2019-20 season subscriptions have been sent out. Please pay promptly. If you have any question, contact the treasurer, Tony O'Donnell on evonne_tony@hotmail.com

Afternoon teas

We will resume our monthly afternoon teas on the third Wednesday of each month; that is 18 September, 16 October, 20 November and possibly 18 December.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks that were ordered have been delivered and most have been distributed.

The full yearbook, either perfect bound or wire-bound, costs \$20. It contains:

- Officers of Croquet NZ
- Tournament Calendar 2019-20
- Ads for national, association and club tournaments throughout NZ
- Honours Board
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The GC Rules booklet costs \$7.50. The latest edition of the GC Rules includes the official rulings that came into effect October 2018. It is an A6 format that readily fits into a pocket.

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If you want to order a yearbook or the GC Rules, let John Yarrall know on jyarrall@xtra.co.nz.

The club has a copy of the full yearbook that you can consult. Please don't remove it from the club house.

Soil bin

You will have noticed the work going next to Ernie's shed between lawns 1 and 6.

Les and his team are constructing a bin to store soil used for top dressing the lawns and keep it tidy and dry.

Please keep out, unless retrieving balls.

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